

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY 2007–2008 ANNUAL REPORT



"We are committed to a collaborative, cooperative organization—one that values partnerships and open, transparent processes in government."

**Jim Branham, Executive Officer
Sierra Nevada Conservancy**

Bodie State Historic Park
Photograph by Pete Dufour
Administrative Services Manager

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



Jim Branham
Executive Officer

► [Video Highlights](#)

What a great job I have! Serving as the Executive Officer of the SNC is a true honor and a very rewarding experience. During my nearly 3 years in the job I have travelled thousands of miles, visited scores of communities and viewed some of the most magnificent scenery in the world. I have met dedicated public officials and community leaders, as well as passionate volunteers—all committed to the environmental and economic well-being of the Region.

During the past three years, we have worked hard to create an organization that honors the spirit and the letter of the legislation that created the SNC. I believe we have made outstanding progress.

We've taken the charge to collaborate, cooperate and seek the public's input to heart. The SNC has engaged the public in 39 formal public workshops and dozens of other meetings across the Region. Our Board rotates its quarterly meetings among the six Subregions, taking the business of the SNC to the communities we serve ([view map](#)). We've met in Grange halls, fairgrounds, Supervisors' chambers, train depots, veteran halls and senior centers; and more important than just meeting, we have listened carefully and acted on what we've heard. Our strategic plan, grants program and education and communications plan are all stronger because of the interaction with so many stakeholders.

The depth and breadth of positive activities in the Sierra Nevada is truly remarkable. There is no question as to the desire, knowledge and will to address complex issues in the Region. In many cases, communities only lack the financial resources to address these issues. Through our grant program and other efforts I am pleased that we are assisting local groups and individuals make a difference. During the past year we have funded projects to protect important natural places, preserve working landscapes, reduce the risk of catastrophic fire and assist communities in a variety of needed planning and assessment efforts.

Finally, I am blessed to be guided by a great Board and surrounded by a dedicated and capable staff of professionals who are passionate about our mission and our Region. Each of them plays an important role in our commitment to be an outstanding partner and putting the needs of our Region and stakeholders first. Not to mention, they make me look good!

On a personal note, this first ever Annual Report of the SNC is a reminder of the hard work of so many in the past that allows us to carry out this important mission. In particular I am once again reminded of a mentor to many of us—a man who provided much of the inspiration, strategic direction and plain old hard work necessary for the creation of this conservancy. Dennis Machida passed away before he could see the fruits of his labor with the SNC. While I am honored to serve as the first Executive Officer of the SNC, I know the seat was more than warmed up by Dennis.